



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**January 14, 2003
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Amy Babich, Linda Guerrero, Jeb Boyt, Mary Ruth Holder, Clint Small and Marilyn Bostick.

Board Members Absent: Jeff Francell and Pablo Valdez

City Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kim Jamail, Randy Scott, Danny Castro, Mini Freeman, Michael Wade, Frank Creasey, Darryl Lewis, Bill Morgan and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6.45 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, December 10, 2002

Board Member Boyt made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. The vote was in favor 5-0-1. (Small abstained)

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

D. PRESENTATION

Chief Darryl Lewis gave a presentation to the Board Members concerning the present budget, staffing levels and duties of the Park Police. Chief Lewis also provided copies of the power point presentation as well to the Board Members. Also in attendance were four sergeants to assist with questions from the Board. In June 2002, Chief Lewis implemented a new policy assigning all officers to five districts. This assignment plan was implemented to improve scheduling and productivity. He also explained the emphasis the Park Police are giving to the hike and bike trails to ensure the safety of users. He also discussed the various seminars

the Park Police have presented to PARD staff and the citizens of Austin. For example, Park Police taught a child abuse awareness training at St. Edwards University, a Safety Camp to children participating in PARD Programs and a Robbery Awareness training to the staff at Jimmy Clay Golf Course.

Board Member Bostick arrived at 6:57 p.m.

Sergeant Michael Wade also spoke to the Board about current problems the Park Police are facing with a large number of transient camps located within wooded green spaces along Barton Creek and in Roy Guerrero Park. Once a camp is located, Park Police have been ticketing or arresting the violators for trash dumping violations. PARD Operation crews have been cleaning up the large amount of trash, including human waste, and debris left behind. This situation is requiring a lot of time and energy from both the Park Police and the Operations crews. The Park Police are concerned about water quality impacts of the transient camps as well as the potential for crimes to be committed against recreational users of the greenbelt and park. They will be giving the same presentation to the city's Environmental Board because of their concern of environmental degradation to these areas as a result of the large number of transients living in them.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation Regarding the Construction of **Fooshee** Boat Dock at 4418 Rivercrest. File No. SP-02-0171DS

Board Member Small stated this item was pulled off the agenda. The requestors will meet with Randy Scott for further options.

2. Make a Recommendation Regarding the Construction of **Stephens** Boat Dock at 4518 Rivercrest. File No. SP-02-0322DS

Board Member Small made the motion to approve the request to replace the piling on the current Stephens' boat dock structure, which has been reviewed and approved by Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 6-1-0.** Babich opposed

3. Make a Recommendation Regarding the Construction of **Landa** Boat Dock at 4418 Rivercrest. File No. SP-02-0171DS

Board Member Small made to motion to approve the Landa boat dock, stating that the new dock configuration will eliminate a navigational hazard posed by the current dock and will decrease current dock size by 50%. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 6-1-0.** Babich opposed.

4. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Parkland Use Agreement within Parkland for Dittmar Road Improvements, Manchaca Road to South 1st Street.

Board Members tabled the Dittmar Road improvement item because no staff was present from Public Works Department to address questions from the board. The item will be brought back on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting, Tuesday, January 28, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at the Park and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd.

5. Make a Recommendation to Director Regarding the placement of four Portable Buildings on Park Property adjacent AISD Kealing School in Support of the Carver Library and Museum Expansion.

This item is in pursuit of an inter-local agreement in consideration of the current use of AISD and PARD land. The portables are in support of the joint venture expansion of the Carver Library and Museum undertaken by PARD and the Library Department. The inter-local agreement is being drafted and will be subject to approval by the City of Austin and AISD.

Board Member Boyt made the recommendation to approve the placement of four portable buildings on Parkland property. **Board Member Bostick** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 7-0-0.**

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares updated the board on city's current budget shortfalls expected to follow in 2003. He noted that the department would consider a reduction in Summer Playground sites and a reduction in hours during the week in order for facilities to be open during the weekend days.

Mr. Olivares informed the board of the advisory board retreat tentatively scheduled for, Saturday, February 8 at South Austin Senior Activity Center, 3911 Manchaca Road. Mr. Olivares also informed Members that this year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Parks and Recreation Department. During this year, the department intends to celebrate with various celebrations each month at various recreation centers or previously scheduled events. More information will be given to Board Members as the programs are arranged.

Mr. Olivares invited the board to attend the reception and proclamation in honor of Austin's first recreation centers, Saturday, January 25 at the Hancock Recreation Center, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Those centers are recognized as Austin Recreation

Center (ARC), Rosewood, Pan Am, Parque Zaragoza and Hancock recreation centers.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

None

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder updated members of the board on the Walsh boat landing lift station improvements proposed to be completed in December 2003. The committee also considered a request by Board Member Babich and Urban Transportation Member Tommy Eden to make a recommendation to Council to eliminate curfew in parks so bicyclists using the parks and hike and bike trails after hours would not be ticketed for curfew violations. Board Member Holder informed the Board that the subcommittee received a report from Park Police Chief Lewis that the Park Police will exercise their enforcement discretion and not ticket legitimate commuters needing to use the trails after curfew hours and he will speak to the APD Chief about this issue as well. Board Member Holder further informed the Board that the committee had determined it would not be necessary to refer this item to the full Board at this time and had asked for specific instances of any bicyclist who was ticketed in the future. The Committee also received a report from PARD staff on the status of ADA accessibility funding and improvements for the parks and recreation facilities over the past several years and an update on the mapping of these accessible facilities.

Navigation Committee

The committee met on the three items discussed earlier in the Navigation Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Holder stated that some lobbying groups may call for all hike and bike trails, including the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, to be paved for the safety and convenience of commuter bicyclists and the potential impact on runners and walkers on the trails. She said this issue might become a future policy issue for the Board to consider.

Board Member Babich spoke about her concern for bike riders riding through parkland after curfew hours and receiving tickets for curfew violations.

I. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:08 p.m.